UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/15/Add.137
16 October 2000

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
Twenty-fifth session

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

**Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child:**

**Colombia**

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Colombia (CRC/C/70/Add.5) at its 655th and 656th meetings (see CRC/C/SR.655-656), held on 27 September 2000, and adopted* the following concluding observations.

## A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the wealth of information provided in the State party's second periodic report, but it regrets that the report does not follow its guidelines. The Committee notes with appreciation the timely submission of the written replies to the list of issues (CRC/C/Q/COL/2). The Committee further appreciates the presence of a delegation directly involved in the implementation of the Convention in the State party, which allowed the Committee to have a full assessment of the situation of the rights of the child in the State party. The Committee is encouraged by the constructive and open dialogue it had with the State party's delegation.

---

* At the 669th meeting, held on 6 October 2000.

### B. Follow-up measures undertaken and progress achieved by the State party

3. The State party's accession to the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Violence against Women (Belem do Pará) (1995), the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1994), and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (2000) is regarded as a positive measure.

4. The establishment of structures for the promotion and protection of children's rights, such as the Oidor del Niño and of the children section within the Office of the Ombudsman (Defensor del Pueblo), are welcomed by the Committee as follow-up measures to its recommendations (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 14).

5. The Committee welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Colombia and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (1996) for the establishment of a human rights monitoring office and advisory services programme.

6. The enactment of Law 49-99 (December 1999), raising the minimum age for recruitment for military service to 18 years, is regarded as a positive measure by the Committee.

7. In the light of its recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 19), the Committee welcomes the State party's conclusion of the domestic process for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973).

8. The Committee welcomes the fact that the State party initiated, organized and hosted, in cooperation with UNICEF, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Summit for Children (1998), to evaluate the goals established for this region during the 1990 World Summit for Children and their achievement.

### C. Factors and difficulties impeding further progress in the implementation of the Convention

9. Although the State party is undertaking efforts to find a peaceful solution to the ongoing armed conflict, the Committee is concerned that the general climate of violence largely caused by or related to this conflict is not only negatively affecting the implementation of the Convention but has led to systemic violations of children's rights.

10. The Committee is also concerned about the direct effects of the armed conflict: the high death toll, large-scale internal displacement of children and their families, and the destruction of educational and health infrastructure and of water collection, purification and distribution systems, of the national economy, of agricultural production and of communication infrastructure, all of which have a very negative impact on the development of children and seriously hamper the implementation of many of the rights of the majority of children in the State party.

11. Concern is also expressed that widespread poverty and long-standing economic and social disparities are still affecting the most vulnerable groups, including children, and hampering the enjoyment of their rights in the State party. This situation has been particularly aggravated by severe economic crises and drastic economic reforms.

## D. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

### 1. General measures of implementation

**Children's rights and the peace process**

12. In view of the overwhelmingly negative impact of the armed conflict on the life of Colombian children, the Committee is deeply concerned that no consideration has been given to inclusion and respect for the rights of the child in the ongoing peace negotiations in the State party.

**13. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the protection of the rights of the child are a high priority on the agenda of the ongoing peace negotiations and throughout the process of consolidating peace in the aftermath of the conflict. In this context, the Committee urges the State party to implement the recommendations made by the Security Council in its resolution 1261 (1999).**

**Legislation**

14. The Committee remains concerned that the State party's legislation on children's rights is still not fully compatible with the principles and provisions of the Convention, particularly because the efforts to revise the Code of Minors (1989), which started in 1995, are dragging.

**15. The Committee recommends that the State party review its existing legislation and harmonize it with all the provisions of the Convention. It also recommends that the State party reactivate the process initiated to revise the Code of Minors (1989). Such a process should include the participation of all sectors involved in the promotion and protection of children's rights and should be completed as soon as possible.**

**Coordination**

16. The Committee remains concerned about the limited steps taken to ensure effective coordination between existing institutions working on the implementation of the Convention.

**17. The Committee reiterates its recommendation (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 14) that the State party undertake measures to ensure effective coordination among existing institutions working on the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and local levels. Greater efforts should be made to ensure closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights.**

**Institutional reform**

18. Although the Committee notes the measures taken to reform the Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being (ICBF), it remains concerned that this governmental body has not fully integrated into all its policies and programmes the rights-based approach enshrined in the Convention. Concern is also expressed about the limitations of ICBF in the area of preventing violations of children's rights and protecting children from these violations.

19. Concern is expressed that both judicial and administrative functions related to children's issues, including the appointment of judges and defenders for children's and family affairs, depend upon ICBF and that this situation is a violation of the well-established international standard of independence of the judiciary and contrary to the principles and provisions of the Convention.

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its process of institutional reform of the ICBF and fully adopt the rights-based approach established in the Convention in order to perform its mandate in a more effective manner. Greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening the prevention and protection programmes of ICBF. In this regard, the Committee also recommends that consideration should be paid to maintaining a clear and very strict separation between judicial and administrative decisions regarding children's rights issues.**

**Comprehensive policy on children's rights**

21. While the many and various plans and programmes developed by the State party show its commitment to the Convention, the Committee is concerned about the lack of coherence and comprehensiveness of all these plans and the sustainability of their implementation.

**22. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a coherent and comprehensive national plan for the implementation of the Convention that is clear and understandable to all, children and adults alike, and can easily be implemented at the central, regional and local levels.**

**Data collection and monitoring**

23. With regard to its recommendation concerning the collection and analysis of reliable quantitative and qualitative information (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 15), the Committee welcomes the steps taken to develop a national system of socio-economic indicators on the situation of children, as a basis for the design, evaluation and follow-up of policies and programmes for children. Nevertheless, it remains concerned that the current system does not include all the areas covered by the Convention. The lack of a system to monitor compliance with the Convention is also an area of concern.

**24. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to develop and strengthen its data-collection system, with a view to including all areas covered by the Convention. Such a system should cover all children under 18 years of age and specifically emphasize vulnerable groups of children.**

**25. The Committee further recommends that the State party establish an independent and effective system for monitoring the Convention, with a view to assessing progress achieved in the realization of children's rights and evaluating policies for better implementation of the provisions of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to seek international assistance from, inter alia, UNICEF.**

**Budget and financial resources for children**

26. The launching of initiatives such as the National Plan for Development (1994-1998) and (1998-2000), the National Plan of Action for Children (1996-2000) and the "Haz Paz" (Make Peace) National Plan are regarded as positive measures in line with the Committee's recommendations (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 16). However, the Committee remains concerned about the limitations imposed by the current socio-economic crisis and the armed conflict on the full implementation of social programmes for children.

**27. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that all measures to implement economic, social and cultural rights should be undertaken "to the maximum extent of ... available resources", in the light of articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Convention, and that particular attention be paid to the protection of children belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Committee further recommends that the State party develop a locally based system to monitor and evaluate the situation of children living in areas of extreme poverty in order to give priority to budget allocations for these groups of children.**

**Dissemination of the Convention**

28. While noting the measures undertaken to promote widespread awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention, the Committee is of the opinion that these measures need to be strengthened.

**29. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to disseminate the principles and provisions of the Convention as a measure to sensitize society about children's rights. Special emphasis should be placed on the dissemination of the Convention among minority groups, as well as in rural and remote areas. The Committee encourages the State party to consider seeking technical assistance in this area from, inter alia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF.**

**Training for professionals**

30. The Committee is concerned that current training programmes for professionals working with and for children do not reach all groups of professionals.

**31. The Committee encourages the State party to continue undertaking systematic education and training on the provisions of the Convention for all professional groups working for and with children, in particular parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, civil servants, municipal workers, personnel working in institutions**

**and places of detention for children, teachers, health personnel, including psychologists, and social workers. Technical assistance from, inter alia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF could be requested in this regard.**

## 2. General principles

### Non-discrimination

32. Concern is expressed at the existing patterns of economic and social disparity, and of gender and racial discrimination; at the marginalization of children belonging to the Afro-Colombian and indigenous populations; and at the precarious situation of children belonging to internally displaced populations, especially regarding their limited access to housing, education and health services.

**33. In the light of article 2 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party increase measures to reduce economic and social disparities, including between urban and rural areas; to prevent discrimination against the most disadvantaged groups of children, such as girls, children with disabilities, children belonging to indigenous and ethnic groups, children living in and/or working on the streets, children living in camps for internally displaced populations and children living in rural areas; and to guarantee their full enjoyment of all the rights recognized in the Convention.**

### The right to life, survival and development

34. In the light of article 6 and other related provisions of the Convention, the Committee is deeply concerned at the threat posed by the armed conflict to children's lives, including instances of extrajudicial killing, disappearance and torture committed by the police and paramilitary groups; at the multiple instances of "social cleansing" of street children; and at the persistent impunity of the perpetrators of such crimes.

**35. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party continue taking effective measures to protect children from the negative effects of the armed conflict. The Committee urges the State party to protect children against "social cleansing" and to ensure that judicial action be taken against the perpetrators of such crimes.**

## 3. Civil rights and freedoms

### Birth registration

36. While the Committee notes the State party's efforts in the area of birth registration, it remains concerned that greater efforts are needed to ensure that all children are registered and are provided with identity cards in order to facilitate the full enjoyment of their rights.

**37. In the light of article 7 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party continue its measures to ensure the immediate registration of the birth of all**

**children. Special emphasis should be placed on the registration of children belonging to the most vulnerable groups, including children living in areas affected by the armed conflict and in camps for internally displaced groups.**

**Freedom from torture**

38. In the light of its recommendation (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 17) concerning the need to conduct special investigations in cases of gross violations of human rights involving children, the Committee regrets the lack of follow-up information on this issue and reiterates its concern about alleged cases of street children tortured and ill-treated by members of the police and/or paramilitary groups.

**39. The Committee urges the State party to undertake effective measures to ensure that such acts receive an appropriate response through the judicial process, in order to avoid impunity for the perpetrators. The Committee further recommends that the State party establish care and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of torture and ill-treatment.**

## 4. Family environment and alternative care

**Children deprived of a family environment**

40. The Committee remains deeply concerned at the large numbers of children who have been deprived of a family environment as a consequence of abandonment by, the death of, or separation from their parents. In this regard, concern is expressed, inter alia, at reports regarding difficulties and slow progress in tracing separated families and children; the lack of adequate mechanisms of protection for children living in institutions; the placement of children in institutions for long periods and the predominance of the use of placement in institutions over the development of alternative care measures.

41. The Committee further reiterates its concern that children deprived of their family environment may increasingly travel to the main cities, where they may live on the streets and be particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (see the Committee's recommendation, CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 17).

**42. The Committee recommends that the State party develop additional programmes to facilitate alternative care, provide additional training for social and welfare workers and establish independent complaint and monitoring mechanisms for alternative care institutions. The Committee urges the State party to make every effort to strengthen family tracing programmes and to increase its efforts in providing support, including training for parents, to discourage the abandonment of children. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure adequate periodic review of the placement of children living in institutions.**

**Adoption**

43. The Committee remains concerned at gaps in the State party's domestic legislation on adoption and that existing adoption procedures are usually not respected and are reported to be

subject to arbitrary decisions. Concern is also expressed at the prevalence of illegal informal adoption. The Committee is further concerned at the limited capacity properly to follow up cases of intercountry adoption, which constitute the majority of adoption cases.

**44. The Committee recommends that the State party take further measures to revise its legislation and practices in the area of domestic and intercountry adoption, in accordance with the Convention and the requirements established by the Hague Convention of 1993 on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, to which Colombia is a party.**

**Protection from abuse and neglect**

45. With regard to its recommendations on the situation of domestic violence (see CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 21), the Committee welcomes the adoption of special legislation criminalizing domestic violence, but it remains concerned that physical and sexual abuse - within and outside the family - still widely exist in society. Concern is also expressed at the insufficient allocation of resources, both financial and human, as well as at the lack of adequately trained personnel to prevent and combat such abuse. The insufficiency of rehabilitation measures and facilities for victims and their limited access to justice are also matters of concern.

**46. In the light of, inter alia, articles 19 and 39 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures, including reinforcing current multidisciplinary programmes and rehabilitation measures to prevent and combat child abuse and ill-treatment of children within the family, at school and in society at large. It suggests, inter alia, that law enforcement should be strengthened with respect to such crimes and that procedures and mechanisms to deal with complaints of child abuse should be reinforced in order to provide children with prompt access to justice and to avoid impunity for the offenders. Furthermore, educational programmes should be established to combat traditional attitudes within society regarding this issue. The Committee encourages the State party to consider seeking international cooperation to this effect from, inter alia, UNICEF.**

## 5. Basic health and welfare

47. While acknowledging the measures taken to improve the health status of children, in particular initiatives relating to the reduction of infant mortality, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of regional disparities in access to health care and of high rates of malnutrition for children under five years of age and those of school age, especially in rural and remote areas and, in particular, among children belonging to indigenous groups.

48. The Committee is also concerned about the high maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy rates, as well as about insufficient access by teenagers to reproductive health education and counselling services. In this connection, concern is expressed that the practice of abortion is considered the leading cause of maternal mortality (see the concern expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): A/54/38, para. 393). The increasing rates of substance abuse and of HIV/AIDS among children and adolescents and the constant discrimination they are exposed to are also matters of concern.

**49. The Committee recommends that the State party continue taking effective measures to ensure access to basic health care and services for all children. More concerted efforts need to be taken to guarantee equal access to health care and to combat malnutrition, with special emphasis on children belonging to indigenous groups and children living in rural and remote areas, as well as in camps for internally displaced populations. The Committee recommends that the State party continue with its efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS and take into consideration the recommendations the Committee adopted on its Day of General Discussion on "Children living in a world with HIV/AIDS" (CRC/C/80, para. 243). The Committee also recommends that further efforts be undertaken to develop child friendly counselling services, as well as care and rehabilitation facilities for adolescents. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to continue working in this field in cooperation with, inter alia, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS.**

**Children with disabilities**

50. With regard to the situation of children with disabilities, the Committee remains concerned at the lack of adequate infrastructure, at the limited qualified staff and specialized institutions for these children, and at the absence of adequate resources, both financial and human. In addition, the Committee is particularly concerned at the lack of governmental inclusion policy and programmes for children with disabilities and at the lack of monitoring of private institutions for these children.

**51. In the light of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex) and of the Committee's recommendations adopted on its Day of General Discussion on "Children with Disabilities" (CRC/C/69, para. 338), the Committee recommends that the State party develop early identification programmes to prevent disabilities; implement alternative measures to the institutionalization of children with disabilities; envisage awareness-raising campaigns to reduce discrimination against them; establish special education programmes and centres, and encourage their inclusion in the educational system and in society; and establish adequate monitoring of private institutions for children with disabilities. The Committee further recommends that the State party seek technical cooperation for the training of professional staff working with and for children with disabilities.**

### 6. Education, leisure and cultural activities

52. While the Committee notes with appreciation the State party's achievements in the field of education, it remains concerned about the high drop-out and repetition rates in primary and secondary school, and at the disparities in access to education between rural and urban areas. The Committee is particularly concerned about the situation of children belonging to Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups, as well as those living in camps for the displaced regarding their access to education and the low relevance of the current bilingual educational programmes available for them.

**53. In the light of articles 28, 29 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party continue with its efforts to strengthen its educational policies and system in order to improve ongoing retention programmes and**

**vocational training for drop-out students; to extend coverage and to improve the quality of education, respecting geographical and cultural diversity; and to improve the relevance of bilingual education programmes for children belonging to indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups. Furthermore, in view of the ongoing armed conflict in the State party, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its programmes on human rights education, including on the rights of the child, in its teacher training programmes and school curricula, and ensure that every child receives such education. The Committee encourages the State party to consider seeking technical assistance in this area, inter alia, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and UNESCO.**

### 7. Special protection measures

**Children affected by armed conflict**

54. While the Committee welcomes the prohibition of recruitment of children under the age of 18 into the armed forces, it expresses its deep concern at the very high numbers of children who have been forcibly recruited into guerrilla and paramilitary groups.

55. The Committee is deeply concerned about the extremely negative impact of the armed conflict on all children, including children formerly involved in hostilities, and about the serious threat to their right to life, survival and development and the severe psychological trauma inflicted upon them. Concern is also expressed at the lack of a national policy to guarantee the social reintegration of children formerly involved in hostilities.

**56. The Committee urges the State party to take effective measures to have all child abductees and combatants released and demobilized and to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. The Committee further recommends that the State party establish and strictly enforce its legislation prohibiting the future recruitment of children by any group.**

**57. The Committee also urges the State party to take all effective measures, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and bodies such as UNICEF, to address the physical needs of child victims of the armed conflict, in particular child amputees, and the psychological needs of all children affected directly or indirectly by the traumatic experiences of war. In this regard, the State party is recommended to develop as quickly as possible a long-term and comprehensive programme of assistance, care, rehabilitation and reintegration.**

**58. The Committee endorses the recommendations made to the State party by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (see A/54/430, paras. 122-127 and E/CN.4/2000/71, paras. 60-71) and recommends that the State party, in cooperation with the international community, urgently implement these recommendations in order to give the highest priority to the protection of children from the negative effects of the armed conflict.**

**59. The Committee welcomes the State party's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and encourages the State party to ratify and implement it as soon as possible.**

**Internally displaced children**

60. The Committee expresses its concern that the State party has one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world, forced to leave their home towns owing to the high level of violence in certain regions of the country. The Committee is also concerned about the social deprivation faced by these populations, mainly composed of women and children, especially their limited access to housing, health services and education. The Committee is further concerned about reports that many displaced persons have been the victims of grave human rights violations and about the thousands of displaced families who have fled to neighbouring countries, where refugee status has been denied them by the local authorities.

**61. The Committee recommends that the State party give the highest priority to the protection of the rights of children belonging to internally displaced groups. In this regard, the Committee endorses the recommendations made in the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons to the Commission on Human Rights on the situation in the State party (see E/CN.4/2000/83/Add.1 and Add. 2), and recommends that the State party, in cooperation with the international community, urgently follow up these recommendations, in particular that on the incorporation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2) in the State party's legislation and policies on internally displaced persons.**

**Economic exploitation, including child labour**

62. With regard to its recommendation concerning measures for the eradication of child labour (CRC/C/15/Add.30, para. 19), the Committee welcomes the technical cooperation programme with the International Labour Organization (ILO)/International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned that economic exploitation is still one of the major problems affecting children in the State party. The Committee is also concerned at the insufficient law enforcement and the lack of adequate monitoring mechanisms to address this situation, especially in the informal sector. The Committee is further concerned at the situation of children working in the coca-leaf plantations.

63. The Committee expresses most particular concern for children who work or live in the street in order to survive and who require special attention because of the risks to which they are exposed.

**64. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify ILO Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999). The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to address the situation of children involved in hazardous labour, especially in the informal sector and the coca-leaf plantations. The Committee also recommends that the child labour laws should be strictly enforced, the labour inspectorates strengthened and**

**penalties imposed in cases of violation. The Committee further recommends that the State party adopt appropriate programmes and policies for the protection and rehabilitation of children living and/or working on the streets. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party continue working in cooperation with the International Labour Organization's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).**

**Drug abuse**

65. Although the Committee takes note of the measures taken to combat drug abuse by children, such as the establishment of the National Plan (1995) and the RUMBOS programme, it is still concerned that drugs and substance abuse remain a major area of concern. It is also concerned about the widespread use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of drugs.

**66. In the light of article 33 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party continue taking effective measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. It encourages the State party to support rehabilitation programmes for child victims of drug and substance abuse. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to consider seeking technical assistance from, inter alia, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board.**

**Sexual exploitation**

67. While noting with appreciation the revisions to the State party's Penal Code and the establishment of a national plan of action to combat and prevent the sexual exploitation of children, the Committee remains concerned at the insufficient awareness among the population of these issues.

**68. In the light of article 34 and other related articles of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party fully implement its national plan of action to prevent and combat this phenomenon and that it continue conducting awareness raising campaigns on this issue. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the recommendations formulated in the Agenda for Action adopted at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm in 1996. Furthermore, the Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.**

**Sale, trafficking and abduction**

69. While the Committee takes note of the State party's efforts to combat the trafficking and sale of children, it remains concerned about the lack of adequate preventive measures in this area.

**70. The Committee recommends that measures be taken on an urgent basis, such as a comprehensive programme to prevent and combat the trafficking and sale of children, including an awareness-raising campaign and educational programmes, in particular in the rural areas and for concerned governmental officials.**

**71. Furthermore, the Committee welcomes the State party's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and encourages the State party to ratify and implement it as soon as possible.**

**The administration of juvenile justice**

72. While the Committee takes note that prisons for children have been closed and that re-education centres for children in conflict with the law have been established, it remains concerned, inter alia, at the situation of children placed in these centres, in particular regarding their long-term placement, which constitutes a form of deprivation of liberty; that deprivation of liberty and isolation of juveniles are systematically used in police stations; that juvenile courts use measures of confinement not as a measure of last resort; at the lack of alternative measures to the use of deprivation of liberty (e.g. assisted liberty); and at the insufficient re-education and rehabilitation measures for juveniles offenders.

**73. In the light of articles 37, 40 and 39 and other relevant United Nations standards in this field, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Ensure that deprivation of liberty is used only as a measure of last resort, for the shortest period and only for serious offences;**

**(b) To improve the living conditions of children in re-education centres;**

**(c) To strengthen and increase its efforts to develop alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty;**

**(d) To develop effective probation services for juveniles, in particular those who are released from re-education centres in order to support their reintegration in society;**

**(e) To strengthen its training programmes on the relevant international standards for judges, professionals and staff working in the field of juvenile justice.**

**The Committee recommends that the State party seek international assistance in the area of juvenile justice from inter alia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNICEF and the International Network on Juvenile Justice through the Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance on Juvenile Justice.**

**Dissemination of reports**

**74. In the light of article 44, paragraph 6, of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the second periodic report and the written replies submitted by the State party be made widely available to the public at large and that consideration be given to the publication of the report, along with the concluding observations adopted thereon by the Committee and the relevant summary records. Such a document should be widely distributed in order to generate debate and awareness of the Convention, its implementation and monitoring within the Government and the Parliament, and among the general public, including concerned non-governmental organizations.**

---